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Economic Survey of the Hamlet of Morecam  
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# ECONOMIC SURVEY

OF THE

## HAMLET OF MORECAMBE

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

*Industry*  
~~DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS~~

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

HON. A. J. HOOKE  
MINISTER

RALPH R. MOORE  
DEPUTY MINISTER

Hamlet of Morecambe July 1951

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1. LOCATION

Section 18-54-10-W4 in Census Division No. 10. This location is 100 miles east of Edmonton on the Edmonton-Willingdon-Lloydminster branch line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and on Highway No. 45, thirteen miles east of Two Hills.

2. ALTITUDE

1558 ft.

Latitude 53/40

Longitude 111/30

3. TEMPERATURE

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Mean summer temperature | 53°F |
| Mean winter temperature | 19°F |
| Mean annual temperature | 32°F |

4. RAINFALL

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Average annual rainfall    | 10.71 inches |
| Average annual snowfall    | 40.8 inches  |
| Total annual precipitation | 14.79 inches |

5. GEOLOGY

The bedrock of this area underlying the glacial deposits is the Belly River formation of the Upper Cretaceous period. This formation is a series of light colored sandstone and shales. The horizon, in other parts of the Province, includes dinosaur beds and coal seams.

6. SOIL

There are three soil zones in the Morecambe district; Transition, Gray Wooded and Black. These zones are described as follows:

Transition Soil Zone

Profile - Generally quite mixed, ranging from nearly black to gray. The surface horizon consists of a thin layer of semi-decomposed litter (A0) which may be absent in burned over areas, underlain by a mineral horizon that can usually be divided into two parts. The upper (A1) part may be black, gray black or dark brown. The lower part (A2) is frequently somewhat leached of organic matter and considerably grayer than the A1. The total depth of these surface horizons averages about 10 to 12 inches. The B horizons are generally dark brown in color and lime is found at depths of about 30 to 40 inches.

Fertility - These soils are usually not as rich as those of the black zone. Leaching of the surface horizons has resulted in the loss of some plant foods.

Vegetation - Mainly woodland in which the tree growth is frequently denser and has more evergreens than in the black zone.

Land Use - A system of mixed farming that includes legumes in the crop rotation, supplemented with applications of fertilizer when required, should be practised for best results.

Gray Wooded Soil Zone

Profile - These soils have developed under humid soil moisture conditions. The surface horizon consists of a semi-decomposed leaf mold layer, A0, that may be absent if the area has been burned over; a thin (sometimes absent) A1 horizon that may be

gray black, brown or gray brown, and a severely leached and platy, grayish A2 horizon, whose depth will average about 6 to 8 inches. The B horizons are heavier textured, compact and often darker in color than the A. The depth to lime is quite variable, often ranging from 30 to 50 inches.

Fertility - Soils in this zone are relatively less fertile because of leaching; the deeper the leached layer, the less fertile. However, patches of transition soils are found within the zone.

Vegetation - A mixed deciduous and evergreen woodland in which peats and muskegs frequently occur.

Land Use - This is a mixed farming area in which legumes, hays and coarse grains are the most desirable crops. Rotations including legumes and supplemented with fertilizers, where needed, have given the most satisfactory results.

#### Black Soil Zone

Profile - The normal profile has a black to very dark brown surface (A) horizon that averages about 12 to 14 inches in depth. The more compact (B) horizon is brown to dark brown, and the lime layer (Bca) is usually found at 30 to 40 inches below the surface.

Fertility - Soils in this zone are the most fertile in the province and they have in their surface foot about 3 to 4 times as much nitrogen and organic matter as there is in the average brown or gray wooded soil. Every precaution should be taken to see that they are not allowed to deteriorate.

Vegetation - Grassland which has been partially invaded by woodlands (mainly deciduous trees), often referred to as a parkland.

Land Use - A high percentage of the zone is arable. Wheat of fairly good quality can be grown, but mixed farming, including the use of fertilizer when needed, is desirable from the standpoint of both profit and permanence.

### 7. HISTORY

The district surrounding the hamlet of Morecambe was first surveyed for homesteads in 1884. At that time this land of hills and lakes was thickly wooded with evergreens and deciduous trees - mostly poplar. Settlement began in 1907, when the eastern part of the district was settled with French Canadians; the west portion with Europeans of Slavonia descent, and the south section with English speaking people. The present population is almost 100% Ukrainian.

The Canadian Pacific Railway arrived in 1927, and the townsite was surveyed in August, 1928.

It is said that the hamlet received its name during the construction of the railway, when a contractor said they would need "more camps", and someone suggested the place be named Morecambe after Morecambe in England.

8. LIVING CONDITIONS

Morecambe lies on the northern slope of a shallow valley, through which flows the Vermilion River. This river broadens out in several places to form a chain of lakes, which are known as the Vermilion Lakes. The hamlet lies on the north side of the railroad, and the land east, west and north is hilly and wooded; with evergreens such as spruce and pine, and deciduous trees which are mostly poplar and willow. It is a regular parkland, except in the immediate vicinity of the hamlet.

There are eight business buildings, twenty homes, one church and a two-room school in the hamlet. Children attend the hamlet school for grades 1 to 9; those taking higher grades, attend high school in the village of Two Hills, which lies 14 miles west.

The racial origin of the 85 residents is Ukrainian.

There are physicians at Myrnam 12 miles east, and at Two Hills 14 miles west where the provincial government health unit is located. This health unit visits the school once each month.

There is good fishing for pike and perch in the surrounding rivers and lakes, and good hunting for partridge, prairie chicken and ducks in the fall.

9. ADMINISTRATION

The hamlet lies within the Municipal District of Eagle No. 81. Each of the seven electoral divisions of this municipal district elect a councillor for a three year term. Three councillors are elected one year, two the next and two the following year. The council, each year, appoints one of their members as Reeve or chairman.

District affairs are administered by the secretary-treasurer who carries out the policy set by the council. His office and staff are located in the village of Two Hills 14 miles west of Morecambe.

10. LAW ENFORCEMENT

The district is policed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment at Two Hills.

There are two resident Justice's of the Peace at Two Hills, and one travelling Police Magistrate.

Regulations

There are no building regulations.

Electrical installations must comply with the requirements of the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

Sanitary installations must meet the requirements of the Provincial Health Regulations.

11. FIRE PROTECTION

There are two 50 gallon soda-acid tanks, mounted on a two-wheeled truck, but there is no organized fire brigade.

12. TAX STRUCTURE

Net Assessment 1950.

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Land 100% of value              | \$ 4,760 |
| Improvements 66 2/3 of value    | 29,230   |
| Personal property 100% of value | 2,540    |
| Total                           | 36,530   |

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| <u>Mill Rate</u> |              |
| Municipal        | 22           |
| School           | 29 1/2       |
| Hospital         | 14           |
| Total            | 65 1/2 mills |

13. AREAS

Total area of hamlet is 3 acres

Roads and Streets  
 1/4 mile graded  
 600 feet gravelled  
 1000 feet of board sidewalk

14. SEWER AND WATER MAINS

Nil

15. POWER

Single phase, 60 cycle, 115 to 230 volt current is supplied at the following rates by Canadian Utilities Ltd., from their steam-electric plant at Vermilion.

Domestic Rate

Demand Charge \$1.00 per month  
Energy Charge  
 First 25 k.w.h's per month..... 10¢ per k.w.h.  
 Next 25 k.w.h's per month..... 7¢ per k.w.h.  
 All additional k.w.h's per month.... 5¢ per k.w.h.  
Minimum Bill \$1.50 per month

Combination Rate

Demand Charge \$2.25 per month  
Energy Charge  
 First 30 k.w.h's per month..... 6¢ per k.w.h.  
 All additional k.w.h's per month.... 3¢ per k.w.h.  
Minimum Bill - demand charge

Commercial Rate

Demand Charge - \$1.00 for the first 1000 watts of connected load, and 50¢ for each additional 1000 watts of connected load.  
Energy Charge  
 First 50 k.w.h's of 1000 watt connected..... 10¢ per k.w.h.  
 Next 400 k.w.h's per month..... 6¢ per k.w.h.  
 All additional k.w.h's..... 4¢ per k.w.h.  
Minimum Bill \$1.50 per month

Power Rate

Demand Charge \$1.00 for each h.p. connected.

Energy Charge

First 25 k.w.h's per h.p. connected.....7¢ per k.w.h.  
Next 25 k.w.h's per h.p. connected .....6¢ per k.w.h.  
Next 50 k.w.h's per h.p. connected .....4¢ per k.w.h.  
All additional k.w.h's per h.p. connected.....2¢ per k.w.h.

Street Lights \$2.25 per 100 watt lamp per month flat rate.

16. WATER

Water is obtained from wells about 30 feet deep.

17. NATURAL GAS

Nil

18. L. P. GAS

Nil

19. DIESEL FUEL

Tractor fuel 16.4¢ per gallon  
Domestic fuel 15.3¢ per gallon

There is no bulk storage, except 50 gallon drums

20.. COAL

Coal is obtained from the Drumheller and Edmonton fields. The calorific value varies from 8,500 to 10,050 B.t.u's per lb. Prices for lump coal f.o.b. car

Drumheller \$16

Edmonton \$14

21. LOCAL RESOURCES

Wheat and coarse grains  
Dairy products  
Poultry products  
Farm livestock  
Sand  
Gravel

22. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

Federal  
Post office

Provincial  
Alberta Government Telephones

Municipal  
Administration Office at Two Hills 14 miles west.

23. HEALTH SERVICES

The hamlet is served by the Two Hills health unit, which visits the schools once each month.

24. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED PERSONAL SERVICES  
(excluding health services)

Nil

25. TRANSPORTATION

The Canadian Pacific Railway - one train each way daily except Sundays, between Edmonton and Lloydminster

Highway Coach Lines of Bruderheim - one bus each way daily between Edmonton and Myrnham.

26. NEWSPAPERS

Nil

27. COMMUNICATIONS

Post office

Alberta Government Telephones

Nearest radio stations CFRN, CJCA, CKUA, and CHFA located at Edmonton

28. FINANCIAL FACILITIES

Use Two Hills facilities

29. HOTELS

Nil

30. TOURIST CAMPS

Nil

31. CHURCHES

Ukrainian Greek Catholic

32. LODGES

Nil

33. SERVICE CLUBS

Nil

34. SOCIETIES

Ukrainian Peoples Home

35. SCHOOLS

There is a two-room school that constitutes Morecambe School District No. 4402, which is a unit of Two Hills School Division No. 21. There are 44 students and two teachers that teach grades 1 to 9. Children that require higher grades attend the high school at Two Hills.

36. THEATRES AND HALLS

Nil

37. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Nil

38. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Nil

39. SPORTS  
School activities
40. FAIRS  
Nil
41. HISTORIC SITES  
Nil
42. CO-OPERATIVES  
Nil
43. INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS  
4 general stores  
1 hardware  
1 shoe repairs  
1 garage and service station  
1 pool hall
44. SITES  
Residential sites, and industrial sites adjacent to trackage and highway are available, and could be served with electric light and power.
45. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
The surrounding district is developing as a mixed farming area. The average production of grains over a twelve year period is - wheat 20, barley 28 and oats 32 bushels per acre. There is a 30,000 bushel elevator for handling and storage of grain.
46. TRADING AREA  
The trading area extends 9 miles north, 8 miles south, 3 miles east and 3 miles west.
47. POPULATION  
Trading area population 1946 census 630  
Population of hamlet July 1951 85
48. INTERESTING VIEWS OF MORECAMBE AND DISTRICT.





